

Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables and melons throughout the year. Nationally, Arizona ranked third in the production of fresh market vegetables and second to only California in the production of head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, cantaloupes, and honeydews.

During the 2009 season, just under 118,000 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona, a decrease of 1 percent from a

year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 32,000 acres harvested, a decrease of 700 acres from the previous season. Cantaloupes acreage totaled 23,300, and is second ranked in terms of acreage harvested. Crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include cantaloupes, dry onions, spinach, and potatoes. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chile peppers, head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, and watermelon.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes, and melons produced in Arizona during 2009 totaled \$784 million, an increase of 7 percent from the previous year.

**Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres
2008-09
113,900 Total Acres**

